



Contesting for Non-Contesters

George K1IG

July 2020

Topics

- Why contest?
- **Preparation**
- Operating
- **Post-contest**
- References

Learning About Contesting

- Contesting is a huge field
- Tonight's presentation is just an introduction – there are many online tools and operating aids that we won't cover
- References are at the end

Radiosport

- Not like other sports
- Everyone is welcome in the radio contests
- Any experience level
- Sometimes the rules apply and sometimes they don't
- Just have fun!



Why Contest?

- It's fun!
- Increases your expertise & confidence
- Set your own goals
- Tests your equipment
- Earn awards: WAC, WAS, DXCC



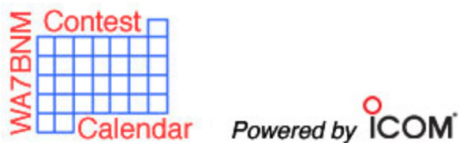
**These aren't as hard
as you may think!**

The Basics

- Hundreds of contests
- Local – Regional – Worldwide
- Basically the same format
 - Work as many stations as possible
 - Exchange data
- Contesting seasons
- “Traditional” bands only
 - 160 – 80 – 40 – 20 – 15 – 10 and above

Contest Calendar

- WA7BNM – “Contestcalendar.com”



[Home](#)

Home	8-Day	12-Month	Perpetual	State QSO Parties	CW	QRP	Log Due Dates	Historical	Alphabetical	Customize	Cabrillo Names
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Welcome to the **WA7BNM Contest Calendar**. This site provides detailed information about amateur radio contests throughout the world, including their scheduled dates/times, rules summaries, log submission information and links to the official rules as published by the contest sponsors.

[8-Day Calendar](#)

Lists details for each contest during an 8-day period, starting with yesterday.

[12-Month Calendar](#)

Lists the names and dates for each contest for a 12-month period starting with the month immediately previous to the current month. Due to the difficulty obtaining accurate contest information, as much as 12 months in advance, not all contests may appear for later months.

[Perpetual Calendar](#)

Lists the names and dates for each contest during a selectable future calendar year that can be accurately predicted in advance.

[State QSO Parties](#)

Lists the names and dates for each contest focused on a single state or group of states in the current calendar year.

[CW Calendar](#)

Lists those contests from the 12-month calendar that specify use of the CW mode, entirely or as a separate class of operation.

[QRP Calendar](#)

Lists those contests from the 12-month calendar that specify a maximum power level of less than 10 watts (typically 5 watts), entirely or as a separate class of operation.

[Log Due Dates](#)

Lists due dates and log submission information for recent contests.

[Historical Calendar](#)

Lists the names and dates for all contests during a selectable past calendar year as far back as 2005.

[Alphabetical Calendar](#)

Lists both active and inactive contests in alphabetical order.

Contest Calendar



Powered by ICOM

8-Day Contest Calendar July 19 - 26, 2020

[Home](#) [8-Day](#) [12-Month](#) [Perpetual](#) [State QSO Parties](#) [CW](#) [QRP](#) [Log Due Dates](#) [Historical](#) [Alphabetical](#) [Customize](#) [Cabrillo Names](#)

Follow @wa7bnmcalendar



July 11 - 18, 2020

July 19 - 26, 2020

July 27 - August 3, 2020



	Jul 19	Jul 20	Jul 21	Jul 22	Jul 23	Jul 24	Jul 25	Jul 26
CQ Worldwide VME Contest								
North American QSO Party, RTTY								
RSGB Low Power Contest								
RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint								
CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush								
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest								
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest								
RTTYOPS Weeksprint								
SKCC Sprint								
Phone Fray								
CWops Mini-CWT Test								
CWops Mini-CWT Test								
CWops Mini-CWT Test								
RTTYOPS Weeksprint								
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data								
QRP Fox Hunt								
NCCC RTTY Sprint								
NCCC Sprint								
RSGB IOTA Contest								
ARS Flight of the Bumblebees								

Contest Calendar

North American QSO Party, RTTY: 1800Z, Jul 18 to 0559Z, Jul 19

Geographic Focus:	North America
Participation:	Worldwide
Awards:	North America
Mode:	RTTY
Bands:	80, 40, 20, 15, 10m
Classes:	Single Op (QRP/Low) Multi-Two (Low)
Max operating hours:	Single Op: 10 hours Multi-Two: 12 hours
Max power:	LP: 100 watts QRP: 5 watts
Exchange:	NA: Name + (state/DC/province/country) non-NA: Name
Work stations:	Once per band
QSO Points:	NA station: 1 point per QSO non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers:	Each US state/DC (including KH6/KL7) once per band Each VE province/territory once per band Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation:	Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by:	0559Z July 24, 2020
Upload log at:	http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit/
Mail logs to:	Mark Aaker, K6UFO 300 Berry St., Unit 1009 San Francisco, CA 94158-1668 USA
Find rules at:	http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf

Contesting Basics

- Most major contests run 48 hours
 - Midnight UTC to midnight UTC
 - Friday evening to Sunday evening
- Some are as short as one hour
- Types of information exchanges
 - Easy: signal report + simple data
 - State, CQ zone, ITU zone, power, grid square
 - Harder: signal report + serial number
 - Difficult: ARRL Sweepstakes

Contesting Basics

- Consult the rules to see what stations you can work. Examples:
 - CQ-Worldwide: work anyone outside US
 - CQ-WPX: work anyone anywhere
 - ARRL DX: work any non-US or Canadian
- If your intent is to get a high score, be sure to read the rules and see how you can multiply your points

Contest Tools – Loggers

- A contest logger is essential
- Attributes:
 - Free!
 - Powerful and fast, but easy to use
 - Kept current
 - Knows the contest rules
 - Keeps track of contacts and score
 - It can make the contacts for you
 - Operating aids: maps, spotter nets, etc.
 - Compiles your entry

Contest Tools – Loggers

- Even though the loggers are “simple to use,” they require setup and practice
- Setup and configuration:
 - Connections to your transceiver, internet, rotator, amplifier, CW keyer
 - Location and contest info
 - External data sources (e.g., country list, Super Check Partial)
 - External websites (e.g., QRZ.com, LoTW, spotters and skimmers)

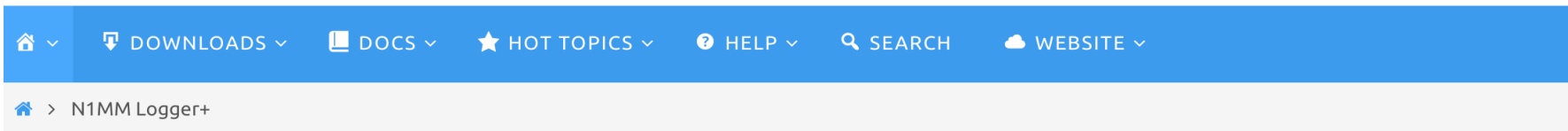
Contest Tools – Windows

N1MM: n1mmwp.hamdocs.com



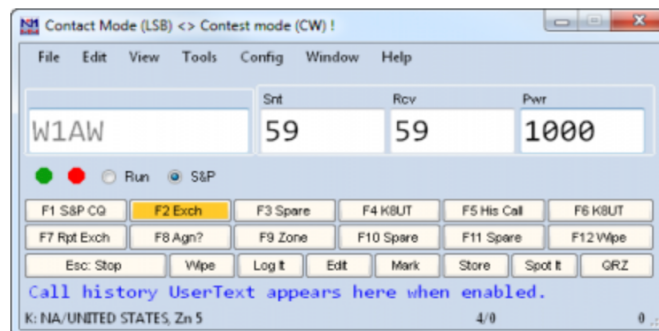
Translate:

Select Language ▾



N1MM Logger+

N1MM Logger is the world's most popular ham radio contest logging program. For CW, phone and digital modes, its combination of contest-optimized features is unmatched.



The program's features are continually changing, and the manual may sometimes fall behind the code when this happens. Consult the N1MM [Update History](#) notes for information on the newest features of the program that may not have made it into the manual.

Contest Tools – Mac

SkookumLogger: k1gq.com

ARRL Field Day 2020.sl-binary

ARRL Field Day 16:49:22 K1IG 1D EMA 0 of 172

☐ CW 0.000.000 +000 RUN 35 WPM

☐ CW 0.000.000 +000 POUNCE 31 WPM

UTC	Band	Mode	Call	Check	Info	TxExch	D	SQ	C	R	Notes
2020-06-28 17:52:36	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	K0CA	1D	MO	1D EMA					
2020-06-28 17:51:46	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	N3QKA	1B	EPA	1D EMA					
2020-06-28 17:49:34	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	WA4PSC	1D	NC	1D EMA					
2020-06-28 17:46:56	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	K0AD	1D	MN	1D EMA					
2020-06-28 17:46:03	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	AC0C	1D	KS	1D EMA				✓	
2020-06-28 17:39:11	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	AA3S	1D	MDC	1D EMA					
2020-06-28 17:38:17	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	WA3FAE	1D	MDC	1D EMA					
2020-06-28 17:37:20	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	K3RA	1D	MDC	1D EMA					
2020-06-28 17:34:55	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	NR4M	3A	VA	1D EMA					
2020-06-28 17:32:30	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	K8TW	1D	OH	1D EMA					
2020-06-28 17:30:22	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	VE3EJ	1D	GTA	1D EMA					
2020-06-28 17:28:30	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	N3HCN	1D	EPA	1D EMA					
2020-06-28 17:27:42	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	KC3R	2D	WPA	1D EMA					
2020-06-28 17:23:00	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	W8EDU	1A	OH	1D EMA					
2020-06-28 17:22:01	20m	<input type="radio"/> CW	KW8N	1B	OH	1D EMA					

Contest Tools – Linux

Xlog or CQRlog: Andy's Ham Radio SW

File View Window Statistics Online log Help 2CQR

qsodate	time	time	callsign	freq	mod	rst_s	rst_r	name	qth	qsl	qsl_via	tati	coun
2013-11-09	17:55	17:55	N2KW	14.0080	CW	599	599	Allen	New York			NY	NY,N
2013-11-09	22:45	22:45	N2KW	7.0150	CW	599	599	Allen	New York			NY	NY,N
2014-02-01	16:07	16:07	N2KW	28.0207	CW	599	599	Allen	New York			NY	NY,N
2014-02-02	06:00	06:00	N2KW	3.5242	CW	449	599	Allen	New York			NY	NY,N
2014-02-02	07:10	07:10	N2KW	7.0276	CW	559	599	Allen	New York			NY	NY,N
2014-10-18	03:38	03:48	N2KW	3.5152	CW	599	579	Allen	New York			NY	NY,N
2014-12-06	19:04	19:31	N2KW	18.0871	CW	559	599	Allen	New York				
2015-01-31	15:13	15:17	N2KW	28.0121	CW	579	589	Allen	New York			NY	NY,N
2015-06-16	04:14	04:19	N2KW	14.0215	CW	559	559	Allen	New York			NY	NY,N
2015-07-08	04:03	04:08	N2KW	14.0344	CW	579	589	Allen	New York			NY	NY,N
2016-01-29	03:33	03:52	N2KW	7.0312	CW	579	599	Allen	New York			NY	NY,N

QSO nr. 61 QTH profile: 99-JO70GG;Neratovice;TS-590SG, GP8, s Confirmed country!!

Call: N2KW Frequency: 7.00248 Mode: ☒ AUTO RST sent: 599 RST rcvd: 599

Name: Allen QTH: New York GRID: FN20XR PWR: 100 QSL_S: QSL_R:

ITU: 08 WAZ: 05 IOTA: State: NY County: NY, New York Award: FOC #1586

DXCC ref: W Comment to QSO: QSL VIA: Comment to callsign:

☐ Offline Date: 2016-04-20 Start time: 04:49 End time: 04:49

DXCC stat.

	1.8	3.5	5	7	10.1	14	18	21	24	28	50	144
SSB	QLE	QLE	X	QLE	QLE	QLE	X	QLE	Q	QLE		
CW	QLE	QLE		QLE	QLE	QLE	QLE	QLE	QLE	QLE		
DIGI						Q						

DXCC info
Country: USA, New York
WAZ: 05 Cont: NA
ITU: 08 DXCC: W
LAT: 40.73 LONG: 74.04W
DIST.: 6566 km AZIM: 298
12:07:44 01:43:47
2016-04-19 23:49:19 GE
Local:
05:56:43 20:06:27

Callbook (HamQTH.com)
N2KW
Allen M Singer
Box 382 Village Station
New York 10014 NY

Save QSO [enter] Quit program

My grid (to change press CTRL+L) JO70... Ref. call (to change press CTRL+R) N2KW 26WPM Ver. 2.0.0 (001)

Contest Tools: Spotter Nets

- Online: dxsummit.fi

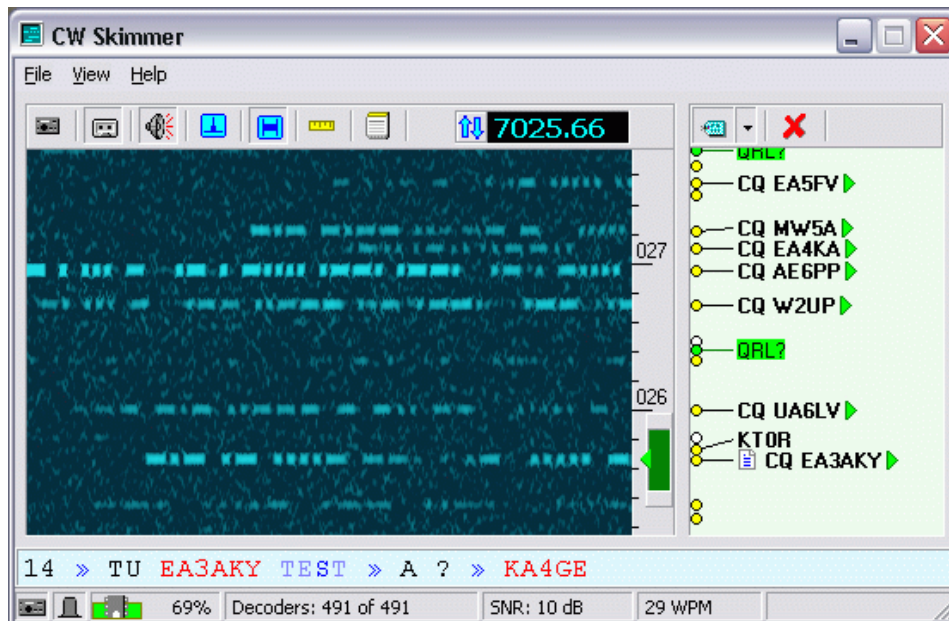
The screenshot shows the dxsummit.fi website interface. At the top, there's a banner with "MY DX SUMMIT" and "RADIO X ARCALA". Below the banner are navigation links: Spots, Spot Search, Daily DX, News, Radio Arcala, Visit Azores, Feedback, and Tutorials. A search bar with "Filters" and "Search" buttons is present. A clock shows "17:02:02 20 Jul". A table lists spotted calls with columns: Spotter, Freq., DX, Time, Info, and Country. A red box highlights a note: "Note: Spotted call signs are often wrong!".

Spotter	Freq.	DX	Time	Info	Country
IU1LCN	14250.3	DM30RSV	17:01 20 Jul	tnx 73s	Fed. Rep. of Germany
OE3FVU	7076.3	YO2LGK	17:01 20 Jul	JN78VE<ES>KN05	Romania
RA2K-@	14071.0	BPSK63			
DL3APO	7019.4	RX3Q			
EA1OK	7165.0	EG1FAG			
SM0EUI	14074.0	RY7G			
YT1T-@	10117.0	YT5M	17:00 20 Jul	5 OKEAN& ARCTICA	Serbia
YU2PI-@	10117.0	YT5M	17:00 20 Jul	5th Ocean+RCWC+ARCK	Serbia

Note: Spotted call signs are often wrong!

Contest Tools: Skimmers

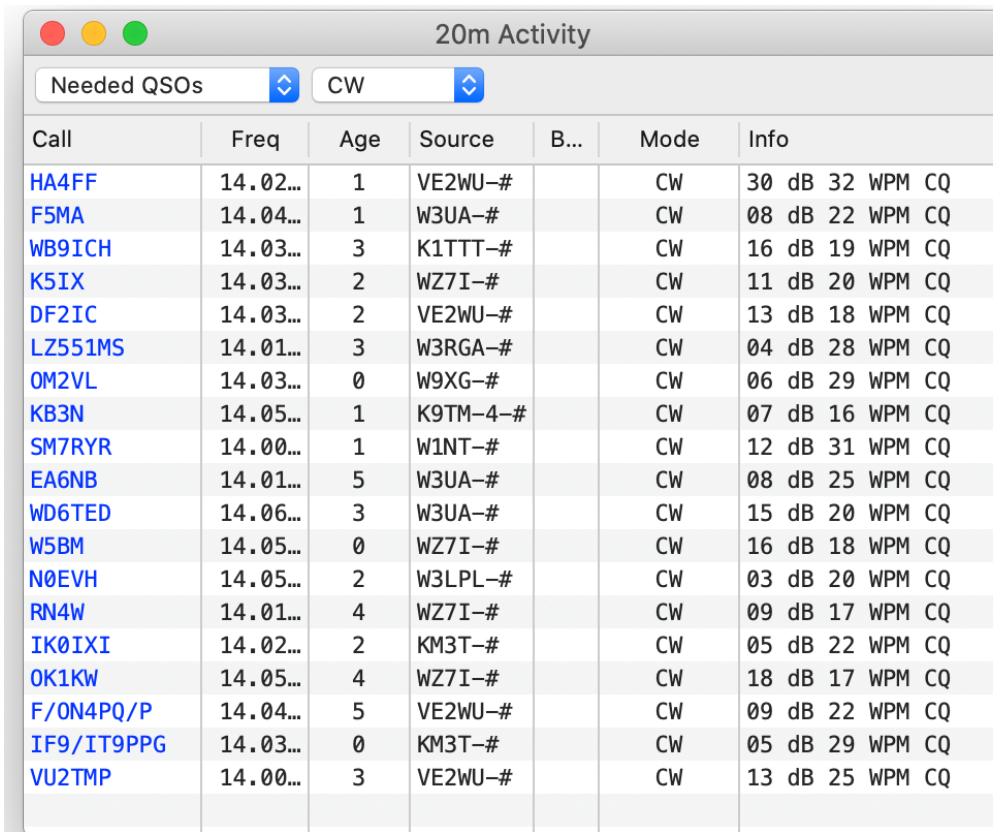
- Two types: internal and external
- Internal: CW Skimmer (dxatlas.com)
 - Takes IF from XCVR or panadapter
 - Decodes CQ's and displays calls
 - Click on calls to contact



- Can decode up to 700 signals
- Can show entire band
- \$75

Contest Tools: Skimmers

- External: Skimmer & Spotter networks
- Accessed by logging program
- Connect to a local server



Call	Freq	Age	Source	B...	Mode	Info
HA4FF	14.02...	1	VE2WU-#		CW	30 dB 32 WPM CQ
F5MA	14.04...	1	W3UA-#		CW	08 dB 22 WPM CQ
WB9ICH	14.03...	3	K1TTT-#		CW	16 dB 19 WPM CQ
K5IX	14.03...	2	WZ7I-#		CW	11 dB 20 WPM CQ
DF2IC	14.03...	2	VE2WU-#		CW	13 dB 18 WPM CQ
LZ551MS	14.01...	3	W3RGA-#		CW	04 dB 28 WPM CQ
OM2VL	14.03...	0	W9XG-#		CW	06 dB 29 WPM CQ
KB3N	14.05...	1	K9TM-4-#		CW	07 dB 16 WPM CQ
SM7RYR	14.00...	1	W1NT-#		CW	12 dB 31 WPM CQ
EA6NB	14.01...	5	W3UA-#		CW	08 dB 25 WPM CQ
WD6TED	14.06...	3	W3UA-#		CW	15 dB 20 WPM CQ
W5BM	14.05...	0	WZ7I-#		CW	16 dB 18 WPM CQ
N0EVH	14.05...	2	W3LPL-#		CW	03 dB 20 WPM CQ
RN4W	14.01...	4	WZ7I-#		CW	09 dB 17 WPM CQ
IK0IXI	14.02...	2	KM3T-#		CW	05 dB 22 WPM CQ
OK1KW	14.05...	4	WZ7I-#		CW	18 dB 17 WPM CQ
F/ON4PQ/P	14.04...	5	VE2WU-#		CW	09 dB 22 WPM CQ
IF9/IT9PPG	14.03...	0	KM3T-#		CW	05 dB 29 WPM CQ
VU2TMP	14.00...	3	VE2WU-#		CW	13 dB 25 WPM CQ

- N1EN (Windsor, CT)
- Click on call for contact


Databases: Country List & SCP

- Load these databases into your logger for logging assistance. Some loggers load these automatically.
- Country list (country-files.com) contains current country info.
- Super-Check Partial database has calls and info of testers for the last two years.

Super-Check Partial

CQ World Wide DX Contest CW

0 of 0

 17:39:33 K1IG RS(T) 05

CW 0.000.000 +000 + No-value QS0 +


PY2C

RUN

35 WPM

CQ World Wide DX Contest CW

0 of 0

 17:40:46 K1IG RS(T) 05

PY2CAT

CW 0.000.000 +000 + No-value QS0 +

PY Brazil: Sao Paulo(SP) SA 11 15 156° 7713km GG66qk

PY2CAT


16

RUN

35 WPM

CQ World Wide DX Contest CW

0 of 0

 17:43:27 K1IG RS(T) 05

[W3LPL] JF3LPD

UR3LPM Y03LP

SP3LPR K3LP

G3LPS G3LPU

3LP

CW 0.000.000 +000 + Invalid Call +

RUN

35 WPM

CW 0.000.000 +000

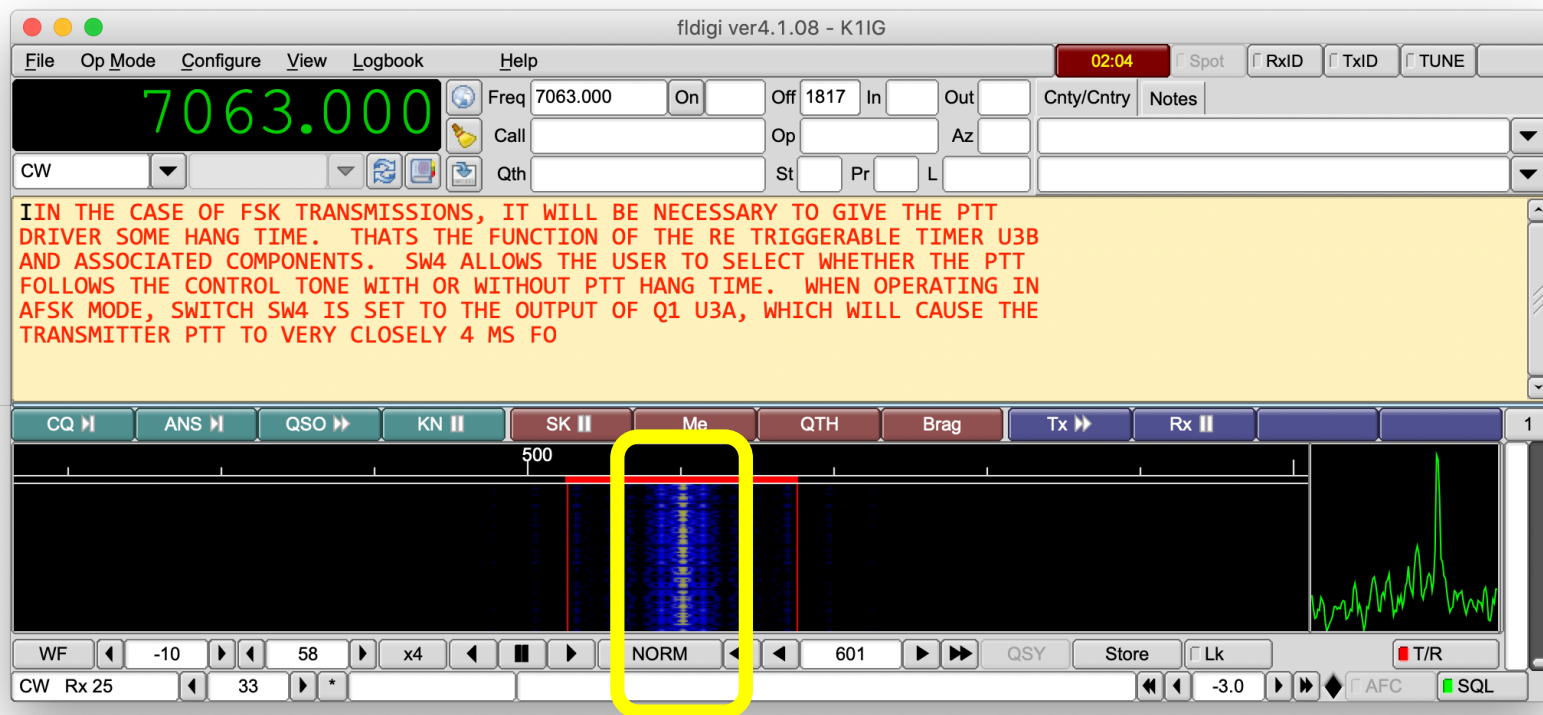
call

POUNCE

31 WPM

FLDigi

- Use it for copying CW and as a tuning aid



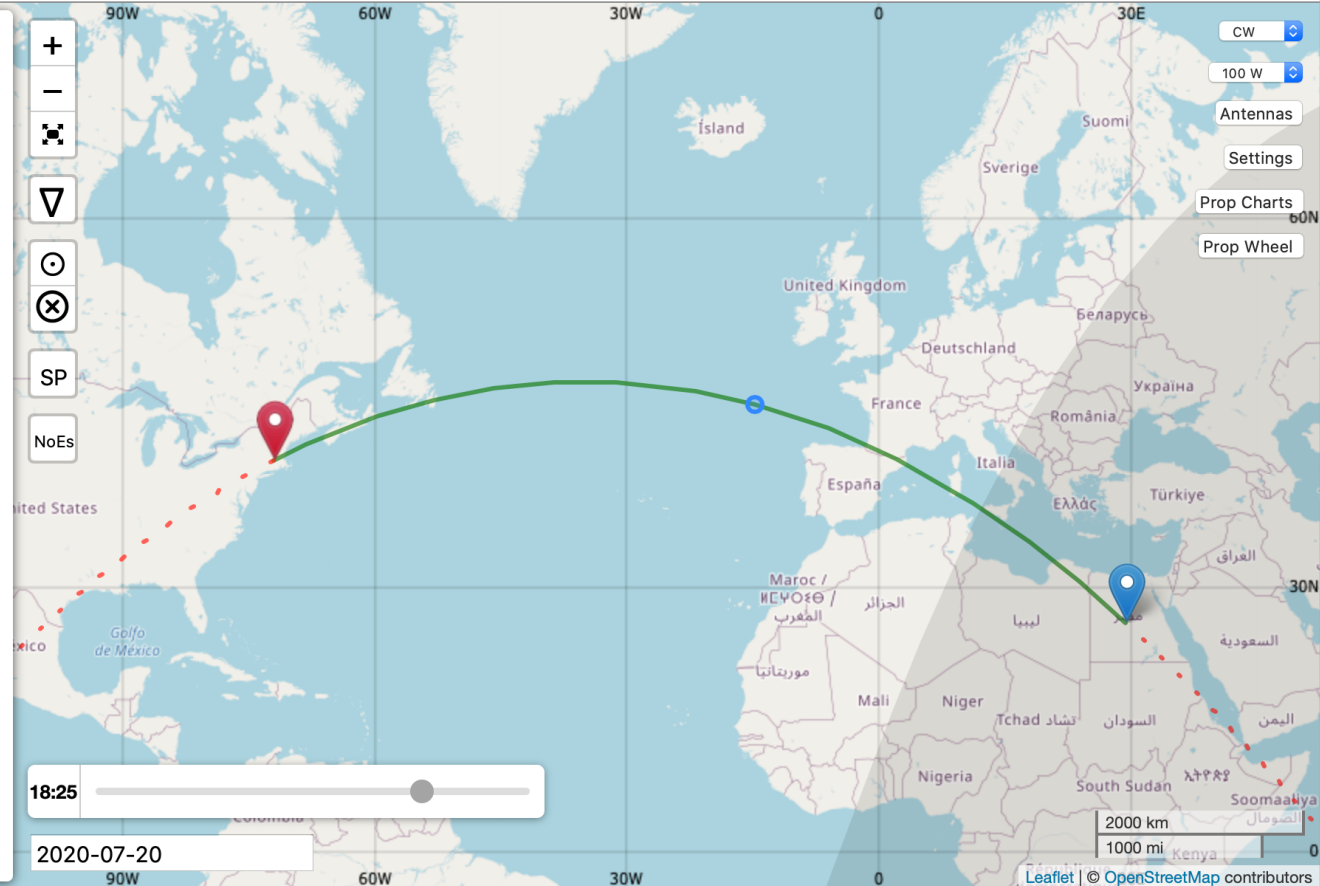
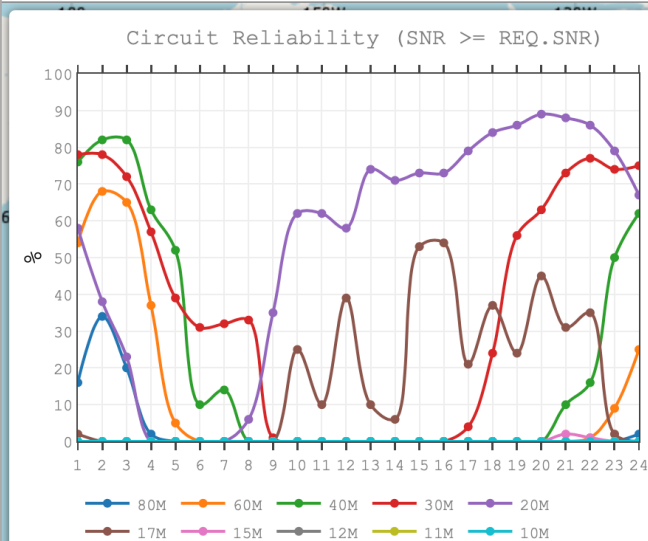
Center his signal on your sidetone frequency for an exact zero beat

Propagation Forecasts

- VOACAP.com

VOACAP Online for Ham Radio – 18:27:14 UTC (02:27 PM)

Select TX QTH: << Select a location >> or set Grid: FN32xd or Latitude: 42.1634 Longitude: -72.0706
Select RX QTH: << Select a location >> or set Grid: KL46qg or Latitude: 26.2737 Longitude: 29.3543



TX: 42.16, -72.07 | RX: 26.27, 29.35 | Short: 8966 km — 5571 mi | 63° — 313° | Mid: 46.9139, -14.7639 | Long: 31042 km — 19289 mi | 243° — 133° | Mid: -46.9139, 165.2361

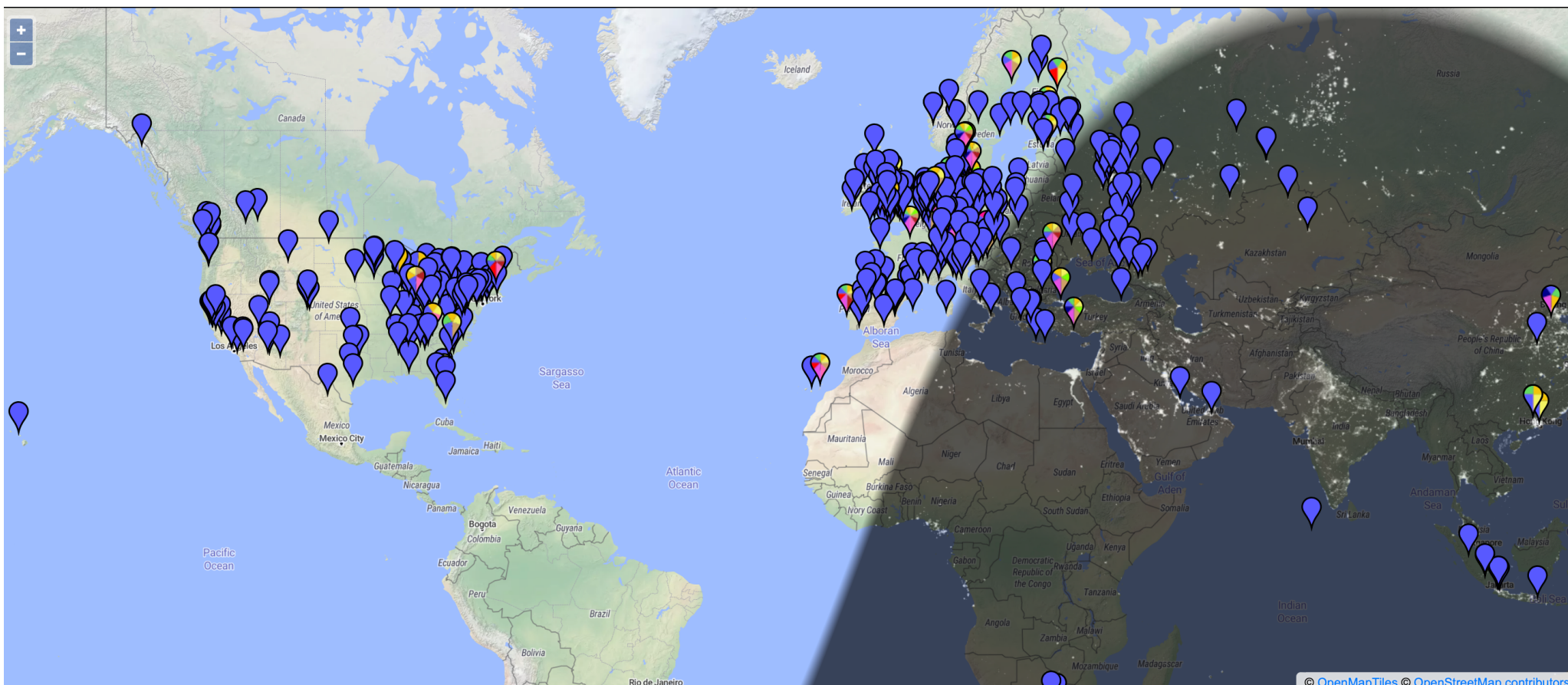
Reverse Beacon Networks

- reversebeacon.net & pskreporter.info

On , show sent by using over the last [Display options](#) [Permalink](#)

Monitoring KK7SB (last heard 4 days ago). Automatic refresh in 2 minutes. Large markers are monitors.

There are [500 active FT8 monitors](#) on 40m. [Show all FT8 on all bands.](#) [Show all on all bands.](#) [Legend](#)



Operating in the Contest

- Set goals. Do you want to:
 - Get a high score?
 - Work lots of new countries?
 - Get an operating award?
 - Just have fun?
- In a big contest, Worked All Continents is easy, and DXCC is possible

Tailor your operating style to match your goals

Operating in the Contest

- The “big-gun” stations have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars just to work YOU!



Operating in the Contest

- Read the rules so you'll know whom you can contact
- Use Search & Pounce mode for your first contests
- Listen for the rhythm of the calling stations and if they're working stations in your area
- Don't be afraid to jump in

Operating in the Contest

- If your goal is just to work a lot of new countries,
 - Don't worry about getting the exchange right; your score is irrelevant
 - Try working the DX stations before the contest when they're checking their equipment – no pileups.

The Contest Exchange

- Everything is in English
- Signal reports are always 59 or 599
- “Cut numbers” in CW:
 - Saves time
 - Abbreviates the numbers
 - 9: N, 0: T, 1: A
 - 599 becomes 5NN
- Save a copy of your log frequently!

After the Contest

- Submitting a log is HIGHLY recommended
- It gets you in the SCP database
- The “big gun” stations all have their logs checked – your contact could make a difference in their scores
- The CQ magazine contests will send you a report of errors and “busted calls”

After the Contest

- Logs are almost always in “Cabrillo” format
- Your logger will generate this file for you
- Most logs are submitted via internet. The WA7BNM Contest Calendar has the website for each contest.
- Upload your log to Logbook of the World, too (separate lecture!).

3830scores.com

150 17,614,109 14,360,565 9,511
422 5,352,334 3,767,550 3,656
406 5,113,832 5,119,488 4,065
710 4,352,334 3,767,550 3,656
458 5,113,832 5,119,488 4,065
630 29,529,080 20,600,646 14,541
000 29,529,080 20,600,646 14,541

3830scores.com
Contest Score Rumors

Call

Search

Home

Preferences

Contest Summaries

Activity Trackers

Updates/FAQ

Submittal Forms

Current Contests

CQ Worldwide VHF
Contest

CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 1300Z Jul 22

CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 1900Z Jul 22

North American QSO
Party, RTTY - July

Phone Fray - Jul 22

RTTYOPS Weekend
Sprint - Jul 19

RTTYOPS Weeksprint
- Jul 16

RTTYOPS Weeksprint

Summaries of Current Contests

CQ Worldwide VHF
Contest

Phone Fray - Jul 22

Russian Radio Team
Championship

CWops Mini-CWT Test - 1300Z
Jul 22

RTTYOPS Weekend Sprint - Jul
19

Worldwide Sideband Activity
Contest - Jul 21

CWops Mini-CWT Test -
1900Z Jul 22

RTTYOPS Weeksprint -
Jul 16

North American QSO
Party, RTTY - July

RTTYOPS Weeksprint - Jul
21

Summaries of Recent Contests

All Asian DX Contest,
CW

RAC Canada Day
Contest

ARRL Field Day

RTTYOPS Weeksprint - Jul 14

IARU HF World
Championship

SMIRK Contest

Marconi Memorial HF
Contest

Ukrainian DX DIGI
Contest

Special Summaries

SQP Challenge

Welcome to 3830scores.com. The site's purpose is to make it easier for contesters to share their claimed scores (score rumors) and comments immediately after a contest. Score submissions are posted to the 3830 Reflector (sponsored by contesting.com), as well as stored in the score rumors database (as they have been since February 2002).

Clublog

- clublog.org
- DX'ers database
- Fast confirmations
- Some loggers will auto-upload
- OQRS



Your Log

DXCC Charts

Timelines

QSL Charts

Zone Charts

Log Inspector

Log Matching

League Tables

DXCC Leagues

Zone Leagues

Club Leagues

CDXC Challenges

Super League

Uniques League

Tools

DX Cluster

Log Search

Call Tester

Most Wanted

DXCC Analysis

Propagation

Great Circle Maps

LoTW Sync

ADIF Diff

QSL Archive

Clublog

Log Search

This form allows you to check if you are "in the log". It only works for registered Club Log users and expeditions that have uploaded their logs. This service has been heavily optimised for large and/or popular logs.

Log to search:	K1N
140,013 QSOs logged between 2015-02-01 23:14Z and 2015-02-15 11:27Z	
Callsign to check:	<input type="text" value="K1IG"/>

Show contacts

Band	SSB	CW
20	1	1
15	2	1

Note: K1N is also using the [Club Log expedition charts](#)

Request QSL Card

More Information

- ARRL Operating Manual
- QST and CQ contest & DX columns
- ContestUniversity.com -- videos
- National Contest Journal (NCJ) – Free online with ARRL membership
- ARRL Contest Update. Free from ARRL; biweekly; lots of good info*
- ARRL DX Bulletin. Weekly from ARRL*

* Subscribe on ARRL website: “Edit your Profile – Edit Email Subscriptions”